



**MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CONTINUUM OF CARE ORDERS

Effective Date: January 10, 2003

Policy #: TCU-01

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- I. PURPOSE:** To define the continuum of care and movement of patients between levels of care at Montana State Hospital. Physicians, in consultation with their treatment teams, other treatment teams on the campus of the hospital, and the associated team leaders, will identify and order the patient to be served in the most appropriate treatment/rehabilitative setting available.
- II. POLICY:** Attending Physicians will secure the most appropriate care setting for each patient during the patient's care and treatment by the Montana State Hospital Continuum of Services by ordering, as appropriate, the available care environments in the following manner.
- III. DEFINITIONS:**
 - A. Continuum of Care: Levels of care offered at MSH (TCU, Hospital).
 - B. T.C.U.: The Transitional Care Units licensed under the Mental Health Center Group Home Standards.
 - C. Hospital: The parts of the Montana State Hospital (Acute Care, Forensic Treatment, Intensive Treatment, Geriatric, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs) licensed under the Hospital Licensing Standards.
- IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**
 - A. Attending physician will identify the appropriate placement in the continuum of care at Montana State Hospital.
 - B. Team Leader will maintain each care environment in a manner consistent with its continuum role.
 - C. The attending psychiatrist will place or change placement of a patient, in the Montana State Hospital continuum of care by writing one of the following orders:
 - 1. "Admission to ...; (Hospital / Transitional Care Unit [MHC - Group Home])" :
 - 2. "Therapeutic Leave to...; (Hospital / Transitional Care Unit [MHC - Group Home])" :
 - 3. "Discharge to...; (Hospital / Transitional Care Unit [MHC - Group Home])" :

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4. "Discharge from...; (Hospital / Transitional Care Unit [MHC - Group Home]" :

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. The attending physician will make a determination as to the most appropriate setting to serve a patient's needs while on the campus of the Montana State Hospital.
- B. The attending physician will utilize, as appropriate, the clinical team, administrative support, in ascertaining the most appropriate care setting.
- C. The attending will place, or change the placement of a patient, in the Montana State Hospital Continuum of Care by writing an order, under a definition identified above, including the following information;
 1. Type of placement; "Admission to ...", "Therapeutic Leave to ...", "Discharge from...", "Discharge To ...".
 2. Identification of important care issues relevant at the time of the order.
 3. Initial orders for care.

VI. REFERENCES: None

VII. COLLABORATED WITH: Medical Director, Team Leaders, Quality Improvement Director, and Forensic/ITP Psychiatrist.

VIII. RESCISSIONS: Policy #TCU-01-99-N, *Continuum of Care Orders* dated May 1, 1999.

IX. DISTRIBUTION: TCU Policy and Procedure Manuals

X. REVIEW AND REISSUE DATE: January 2006

XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: RN Supervisors of the Montana State Hospital Mental Health Center.

XII. ATTACHMENTS: None

_____/____/____
Ed Amberg
Hospital Administrator

Date

_____/____/____
Thomas Gray, MD
Medical Director

Date